A few preliminary remarks

- The Self-Assessment Tool has been designed to support WTO Members’ efforts to prepare for the implementation of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement.

- The Tool will be published next week on IISD’s website.

- It will be available for all Members to use, and can then be used internally by government officials.

- Each Member will decide for itself what to do with the results of the self-assessment.

- The Tool is not an official legal interpretation of the Agreement and should not be taken as legal advice.
The Self-Assessment Tool includes two documents:

- A **Checklist**: A series of tables to be filled out by providing information and answering questions
- A **Guide**: A supporting document that gives explanations on how to fill out the Checklist

The Tool has been designed to help WTO Members to:

- Identify, collect, and record **key information** and data needed for implementation
- Assess **current alignment** with the new rules and identify corrective actions
- Assess whether the mechanisms needed for **ongoing alignment** with the new rules are in place
- Identify and articulate possible **technical assistance** and capacity-building needs
Collecting key information and data

• The Tool first allows users to collect key information and data needed for implementation

• This information collection is guided by “inventory” tables, allowing to record information on:

  1. Domestic fisheries subsidies that fall within the scope of the Agreement
  2. The fleets receiving subsidies and the stocks they fish (+ catch data table)
  3. The status of fish stocks that are fished by subsidized fleets
  4. Vessels and operators identified as having engaged in IUU fishing activities

• The information from inventory tables is then useful to answer many questions of the Checklist

• Maintaining such lists up-to-date can allow WTO Members to regularly collect and record key information for ongoing implementation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Programme name</th>
<th>Authority responsible for the subsidy</th>
<th>Form and type of the subsidy</th>
<th>Description (objective, to whom and how the subsidy is provided)</th>
<th>Amount (subsidy per unit, annual amount for the most recent year, and/or total amount) and duration</th>
<th>Is this subsidy...</th>
<th>For disaster relief, as per Article 11.1? (yes/no)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Fleet development support programme</td>
<td>Ministry of Fisheries</td>
<td>Direct grant for the acquisition of a new fishing vessel</td>
<td>All fishing vessel owners or charters can claim this assistance, which is calculated as a percentage of the total amount invested.</td>
<td>USD 3.7 million in 2021 Total amount of USD 15.1 million for 2019–2022</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current alignment, mechanisms for ongoing alignment, and assistance needs

The Tool takes legal obligations one by one, addressing each obligation in two steps:

1. **Current alignment** table: To assess a Member’s current level of alignment with an obligation and identify required actions to align with the obligation, if any.

   ![](arrow.png) Snapshot of immediate alignment situation at the moment the self-assessment is made (e.g. Is any prohibited subsidy being provided today?)

2. **Ongoing alignment** table: To assess if the mechanisms needed to enable ongoing alignment with an obligation are in place, identify gaps, and articulate needs for technical assistance

   ![](arrow.png) Assessment of “mechanisms” that enable ongoing alignment, and of TACB needs (e.g. Do legislation and procedures operate so that no prohibited subsidy can be provided?)
**Example of a “current alignment” table: IUU fishing subsidy prohibition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Information required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1 - 3.4</td>
<td>Simplified question: Does the Member provide subsidies to vessels or operators identified as engaged in IUU fishing?</td>
<td>List of relevant fisheries subsidies (<a href="#">Inventory Table 2.1</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Information on subsidised fisheries (<a href="#">Inventory Table 2.2</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>List of vessels and operators subject to an IUU fishing determination (<a href="#">Inventory Table 2.4</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Verify if the IUU list has any vessels or operators that receive subsidies.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Further actions**:
- If “No,” no immediate action needs to be taken.
- If “Yes,” the subsidy must be removed from that vessel or operator for at least as long as any sanction resulting from the IUU determination lasts or any RFMO/A listing stands, whichever is longer.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes/no/unknown</th>
<th>Short description</th>
<th>Actions required to enable ongoing alignment</th>
<th>Technical assistance and capacity-building needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IUU fishing subsidy prohibition</td>
<td><strong>Simplified question 1:</strong> Do domestic procedures operate so that an IUU determination regarding domestic vessels or operators is communicated in a timely way to the authorities responsible for fisheries subsidies?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Describe existing procedures providing for communication among relevant national authorities in case of an IUU determination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Simplified question 2:</strong> Do the domestic laws, regulations, and/or administrative procedures that govern the provision of subsidies operate so that no subsidy can be provided to vessels or operators that are subject to an IUU determination?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Describe existing laws, regulations, and/or procedures providing for the removal or non-granting of subsidies following an IUU determination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What about the Guide?

- A **supporting document**, to be used if and when useful
- It gives general background on the Tool and the Agreement
- It provides guidance on how to fill out the “inventory” tables
- For each obligation, the Guide:
  - Reproduces the relevant **legal provisions** from the Agreement
  - Includes a **summary box** to present the obligation in a concise way
  - Provides general explanations on what the obligations mean
  - Provides detailed explanations on how to answer the particular questions in the current alignment table and the ongoing alignment table
Thank you!

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